



February 1, 2005

Woonsocket postal clerk is convicted in \$92,300 embezzlement

A federal jury has found **Paula J. Figuried**, a Woonsocket postal clerk, guilty of embezzling approximately \$92,300 from three stamp machines that she was responsible for.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the verdict, which the jury returned on January 28 in U.S. District Court, Providence, after a three-day trial and about five hours of deliberation. Figuried, 42, of 1525 Manville Road, Woonsocket, remains free on unsecured bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May 13 before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres, who presided over the trial.

During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee presented evidence that, over a 15-month period between October 1999 and January 2002, Figuried systematically kept some of the cash that she removed from three stamp machines when she replaced the inventory of stamps. The machines were located in the main Woonsocket Post Office, in the Walnut Hill branch, and at CVS Headquarters.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee presented documentary evidence that Postal Service officials discovered in an audit of Figuried's servicing of the machines, which occurred weekly and bi-weekly. The total discrepancy between the value of the stamps that she was assigned and the money she returned was approximately \$92,300.

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The jury found Figuried guilty of one count of embezzling postal funds. The statutory maximum penalty is ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The **United States Postal Inspection Service** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee is prosecuting it.

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